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Patent Docket No: 50371USA3D.011

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Ouderkirk et al.  
Serial No.: 09/013,819  
Filed: January 27, 1998  
For: OPTICAL POLARIZER

Group Art Unit: 2872  
Examiner: R. Shafer

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on:	
June 4, 2001	
Date	Signature Pamela K. Gibbs

#224  
Response  
J. Mainella  
6/12/01

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated March 13, 2001, please consider the following remarks as a request for reconsideration.

Claims 1 through 9, 13, 14 and 48 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 14 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kondo et al. ('526). Claims 1, 5, 7 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Matsumoto ('626) in view of Schrenk et al. ('949). Claims 3 through 7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpantentable over Kondo ('526). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over the teachings of these references and the rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to an optical polarizer comprising a reflective polarizer and an absorbing polarizer disposed in close proximity to the reflective polarizer. The '526 reference does not teach a reflective polarizer. A reflective polarizer as described in the present application is a polarizer that reflects light of one polarization while transmitting light of a second polarization. In contrast, element 7 of the '526 reference, cited by the Examiner as teaching the reflective polarizer, is not a reflective polarizer but is a polarization converter. As depicted in Fig. 4 of the '526 reference, unpolarized light incident on element 7 passes through the element regardless of the-polarization state. A first polarization state (depicted as p-pol) is

wave guided through a birefringent medium I and exits the element 7 on the opposite side. A second polarization state (depicted as s-pol light) transmits through the element 7 and is converted from the second polarization state (s-pol) to the first polarization state (p-pol) by the optically active Medium II and is then transmitted through the element as light of the first polarization. Moreover, this is true even for the isolated regions of Medium I and Medium II. Accordingly, The '526 reference neither teaches nor suggests a reflective polarizer.

In view of the above-distinction, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 48 are novel over the teachings of the '526 reference. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 5, 7 and 48 as being unpatentable over the combination of the '626 and '949 references. Each of the independent claims 1 and 48 recite that the absorbing polarizer is disposed in close proximity to the reflective polarizer to directly receive light not reflected by the reflective polarizer. In contrast, the absorbing polarizer 9 described in the '626 reference is an analyzer that is provided on the opposite side of the liquid crystal display from the wire grid polarizer. Accordingly, even if it were proper to substitute the reflective polarizer of the '949 reference for the wire grid of the '626, the claimed elements would still not be found in the combination (e.g., the combination fails to teach or suggest an absorbing polarizer disposed in close proximity to the reflective polarizer to directly receive light not reflected by the reflective polarizer). Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims as being obvious over the combination of references are respectfully requested.

Finally, claims 3 through 7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the '526 reference. As noted above, independent claims 1 and 48 are patentable over the '526 reference. Accordingly, claims 3 through 7 and 13, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable. Moreover, these claims further recite additional subject matter that is distinguishable over the teachings of the reference. For example, claim 13 recites that the absorbing polarizer is positioned to provide antireflection on at least one side of the reflective polarizer. Such a construction has particular advantages, for example, in direct view LCD displays where, as described in the present specification, the reflective polarizer can be used to increase the display brightness while the viewing side of the reflective polarizer element does not reflect light. The combination of a reflective polarizer and an absorbing polarizer to provide antireflection on one side of the reflective polarizer is neither taught nor suggested by the '526 reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 through 7 and 13 are

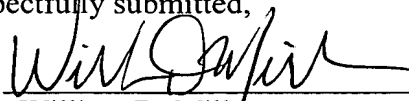
distinguishable over and patentable in view of the teachings of the '526 reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the Applicants believe the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same is solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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